

Sanitized - Approved

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.
OUTLOOK

e. 30,161

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date: JUN 2 1964

Cuban Counterfeiter

Trial May Involve

Top U.S. Leaders

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

By VIRGINIA PREWETT
WASHINGTON, (NANA)

Mario Garcia Kohly, 62-year-old Cuban exile arrested October for counterfeiting Communis Cuban currency, notified the prosecuting attorney, U.S. Assistant District Attorney Charles Fanning, on May 22 that he will call top U.S. political leaders as defense witnesses when the case is tried.

Kohly, a conservative in Cuban exile politics, had planned to flood Cuba with bogus pesos, thus disrupting the nation's economy, and at the same time use the home-made money to finance his own underground organization in Cuba.

Kohly's defense will be that top U.S. officials recognized him as head of an important anti-Castro organization that had proclaimed him "Provisional President of Free Cuba," and that "quite a number" of the prominent Americans knew of and approved of his plan to upset Castro's economy by flooding Cuba with counterfeit notes.

The name of "Senator, now President Lyndon B. Johnson" heads the list of defense witnesses handed to Mr. Fanning in a hearing to set the date of trial before Judge Wilfred President Johnson took place in a hearing to set the date of trial before Judge Wilfred President Johnson took place in New York City. A spokesman for Kohly explained this by saying that the Cuban's contact with President Johnson took place before the 1960 presidential elections.

—Nixon, Taylor, Cushing—

Others on the list to be subpoenaed include: Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon; Gen. Maxwell Taylor, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff; Richard Cardinal Cushing; white house aide McGeorge Bundy; Robert A. Hurwitz of the U.S. State Department; Rep. James Weaver R-Penn.; Rep. William Cramer, R-Fla.; Guatemala's Former President, Gen. Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, now living in Florida; Gen. Julian Elwell, former aide to Gen. Somoza of Nicaragua; Monsignor Belkanus, head of Central European Exile Organization; "Mr. Thompson, believed to be of the CIA"; Wlademar Rivas, former Guatemalan consul in Miami; and a number of the heads of 118 Cuban exile organizations which comprised Kohly's "United Organizations for the Liberation of Cuba."

Documentation to be presented by Kohly, says his representative, includes:

A receipt for one of the counterfeit notes, signed by the aide of a top advisor to President Kennedy; issued by Cuban exile groups on June 20, 1962; proof that the government of President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes of Guatemala recognized this provisional government; a letter showing that Cardinal Cushing of Boston had interceded with President Kennedy through Senator Ted Kennedy in favor of further recognition of the exile group.

Kohly will testify, says his

spokesman, that he received help from Americans who assured him the counterfeiting project had been cleared by U.S. authorities and whom he knew as U.S. agents. When he was arrested last Oct. 1 and for some time thereafter, Kohly reportedly believed the arrest to be a mistake that would be cleared up. For this reason, he did not tell the Federal Grand Jury that indicted him the full story, his representative said.

—Approached By Agents—

When the U.S. District Attorney saw the list of Kohly's witnesses, he asked that the day for setting a date for trial be advanced to June 1, 1964. Kohly is out on \$5,000 bail. He will testify, says his spokesman, that since being indicted, his organization has been approached by men representing themselves to be U.S. official agents asking help on a plan to unseat Castro. This request was refused, it is said. Kohly does not cooperate with what he regards as "leftist" Cuban exile organizations.

Kohly was arrested in the lobby of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York on Oct. 1, 1963, with the plates in his possession. A Baltimore, Md., man named Robert Morrow, also arrested, was charged with making the plates for Kohly. Kohly will testify that Morrow assured him the project "was cleared." Morrow did considerable electronic work for the U.S. Government, it is said. Kohly was arrested only six days before a large "unity time